

May 2021

Dear Parent Carers

I wrote to you earlier this year and shared with you that Wirral Evolutions, as a service wholly commissioned by the Council, along with many other essential services have been impacted by the significant financial challenges faced by Wirral Council. It was also acknowledged that we needed to modernise and continue to improve our service provision to the people we support and their parent/carers and ensure the care and support enables them to meet their agreed outcomes.

The first stage of our modernisation programme commenced in April with the workforce consultation on the proposals to redesign the structure that will strengthen and enhance a person-centred focus of support with smaller groups.

The next phase is to involve yourselves and the people we support on the ideas for our future proposals. We recognise that day services offer an essential service and improving the quality of life for those that participate and for their carers; it is also a central component of social citizenship for many, and we remain committed to our guiding principles ensuring that:

- ✓ **People** we support are at the heart of everything we do.
- ✓ **Safe and Quality** service delivery is of the highest standard.
- ✓ **Choice & Inclusivity** enhancing life skills experiences and access to opportunities.
- ✓ **Social Value** quantifying the benefits people place on their life experience.
- ✓ **Economic Value** operating in an efficient and effective manner enabling growth.
- ✓ **Transparency, openness, and honesty**, doing the right things for the right reasons.
- ✓ **Collaborative working** to deliver the best outcomes.

Making any changes to services is always hard but when money is tight those decisions become even more difficult. We see our job as providing you all with the best possible services but also to stay within our budget. **Most importantly at this point, I would like to give you reassurance that all people we support, who are currently registered/accessing the service, will continue to be offered a service within Wirral Evolutions, unless it is a personal choice to access an alternative provision based on their individual needs.**

When Wirral Evolutions was established, it was acknowledged that the physical footprint was both too large and, in some cases, not fit for purpose, and during the last year, we have seen a reducing number of people participating in the services



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Reducing our physical footprint will allow for savings not only on premises cost but on management cost, which will enable us to deliver the £500,000 savings placed on the company. In addition, a reduced number of assets will allow the company to refocus and secure capital investment to have locations upgraded and fit to support people with complex needs. The refocus on fewer locations with specialist provision and new workforce structure will strengthen Wirral Evolutions and plays a pivotal role in securing the future for the people we support and workforce.

Our Consolidation Proposal

- We propose to exit Highcroft Centre for Adults with Disabilities from September 2021.
- We propose to exit Cambridge Road Centre for Adults with Disabilities from September 2021.
- We propose to withdraw the Best Bites catering and hospitality service, currently operating out of Willow Bank, from September 2021
- We propose to offer an additional older person's service from Heswall Centre.
- We propose to offer a younger persons' service from Oakenholt offering vocational opportunities.
- Dale Farm and Royden Park will continue to provide horticultural opportunities.
- We propose to offer an additional specialist Profound and Multiple Learning Disability resource at Eastham Centre in addition to the specialist service at Pensby Wood.
- Best Bites will continue to offer a catering and hospitality service at Bluebelles and also at Oakenholt.

Our vision is to utilise our buildings in a more fluid and flexible way which people can use as a base to access the range of activities available to people in local communities. We intend to work with people we support and parent carers over the coming months to co-design new day support and we will agree a date when this starts in September 2021.

During week beginning the 24 May 2021 we will be launching the engagement events on the proposals and this will continue until June 13th. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are setting up Zoom meetings for parent/carers to discuss the impact of the proposals.

If Zoom is new to you, there is a handy information leaflet attached to this letter to get you started and help you confidently use Zoom. There will also be an online questionnaire available for your feedback on www.wirralevolutions.org



Engagement Events

Admin Centre	Who For	Date	Joining Details
Cambridge Road Contact: janparry@wirralevolutions.org 0151 666 3867	Parent/carers and people supported at: Cambridge Road, Highcroft and Best Bites	24 May 2021 11:30 – 12:30 or 5pm - 6pm	Meeting ID: 916 8122 9905 954 7366 9664 Password: WEEMCR
Eastham Contact: normaboyd@wirralevolutions.org 0151 327 4348	Parent/carers and people supported at: Eastham Centre and Oakenholt	25 May 2021 11:30 – 12:30 or 5pm – 6pm	Meeting ID: 989 2888 9503 916 1167 5419 Password: WEEMEO
Heswall Contact: annahallam@wirralevolutions.org 0151 342 6402	Parent/carers and people supported at: Heswall, Dale Farm, Royden Park and Pensby Wood	26 May 2021 11:30 – 12:30 or 5pm – 6pm	Meeting ID 968 4598 0822 955 1440 1777 Password: WEEMHES

Please contact the admin centre via email to confirm you will be able to join the online event allocated to your centre by Wednesday 19 May 2021.

If it is difficult for you to access Zoom we can make an alternative arrangement, however due to Covid-19 restrictions and the need to ensure a safe environment, this would be for a strictly limited number of people. Please contact the admin centre listed on the table above to discuss this.

The Engagement meetings will also be publicised on Wirral Evolutions website and the engagement period will continue until June 13th, 2021 when the information will be considered and the final decision made.

Adopting a person-centred approach, we will support people to begin to think about the transition into alternative services within Wirral Evolutions enabling them to have



good community day activities and to focus on their strengths. This aligns with the aims of the Care Act 2014 and we want the service to be right for each individual and ensure they continue to receive the support they need.

It is important to us that the people we support have their voices heard and are given opportunities to make choices taking into consideration their needs and existing relationships. Following the engagement events, individual meetings with the people we support and their parents and carers will be arranged at the locations, to discuss options and develop a transition plan with the valued input from staff they know contributing to this process to establish a flexible option in a way that works best for the people we support while meeting their needs. Advocacy will also be available for support.

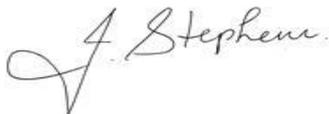
The Wirral Advocacy Hub is an independent and confidential single point of contact for adults who may be experiencing difficulties in having their voice heard when accessing and or dealing with adult health and social care services. They are the local provider for Independent Advocacy and can be contacted on 0300 2000 083 with further information available on their website [Wirral-Advocacy-Hub](#).

Later this year, following the finalisation of the restructure, we intend to bring people together to discuss ideas and co-design and shape future services and improve day opportunities which are modern and progressive, building on people's strengths and ambitions and their potential for independence. Once again, I would like to reassure you that in meeting these challenges successfully **it will not reduce or diminish** the level of support your loved one currently receives from Wirral Evolutions.

To enable us to communicate and correspond with you more effectively, if you haven't already done so, it would be extremely helpful if you would confirm permission to use your email address by emailing parentsandcarers@wirralevolutions.org

On behalf of Wirral Evolutions, we would like to thank you for your continued support and keep safe throughout this pandemic.

Kind regards



Jean Stephens,
Managing Director

